

Message Text

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FOR EUR/RPE, OES/EN, OLSON; PASS EPA/COTSWORTH AND
NOTZON, CEQ/BUFFINGTON AND TUNSTILL; INTERIOR/HCRS-
PRITCHARD AND USGS-SMITH; COMMERCE/JOSEPH DUNCAN, LOREN
CASEMENT AND SIDNEY GALLER

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: SENV, OECD
SUBJECT: MEETING OF EXPERTS GROUP ON STATE OF THE ENVI-
RONMENT (JULY 10) AND EXTENDED BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE (JULY 11).

1. SUMMARY: THE EXPERTS GROUP ON THE STATE OF THE
ENVIRONMENT IS PREPARING A REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE
ENVIRONMENT, A SUBJECT ON THE AGENDA OF THE ENVIRON-
MENT MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MAY 1979.
THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS DERIVED FROM THIS
PIONEERING OECD EFFORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE
MINISTERS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION AND
POSSIBLE ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE APRIL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE,
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THE U.S. SUBMITTED A ROOM DOCUMENT (ENV/BUR/78.4) THAT
REQUESTED THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO GIVE ADDITIONAL
GUIDANCE TO THE EXPERTS GROUP ON THE PREPARATION OF
THE REPORT AND TO ENCOURAGE THE COMMITTEE TO USE THIS
PROCESS TO FURTHER THEIR DISCUSSION ON FUTURE WORK.
THE MEETINGS OF THE EXTENDED BUREAU OF THE GROUP OF
EXPERTS AND OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WERE CALLED

TO DISCUSS THE U.S. PAPER IN DETAIL.

THE EXTENDED BUREAU OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS WAS CHAIRED BY TOM DEFAYER (CANADA) AND ATTENDED BY PETER MC CORMACK (U.K.), ROGER CRUON (FRANCE), HIRONORI HAMANA-KA (JAPAN), AND DAN TUNSTALL (U.S.).

THE EXTENDED BUREAU OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WAS CHAIRED BY TONY FAIRCLOUGH (U.K.) AND ATTENDED BY ERIK LYKKE (NORWAY) AND JOSE CORREIA DA CUNHA (PORTUGAL).

3. THE MEMBERS OF THE EXTENDED BUREAU MEETING HELD JULY 10, WELCOMED THE U.S. PAPER AND THE WRITTEN RESPONSES TO IT BY CANADA AND JAPAN. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT SHOULD INCLUDE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THAT COULD BE USED BY THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND MINISTERS TO PLAN FUTURE WORK ON DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING IN MEMBER COUNTRIES AND AT OECD. THE GROUP EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR ONGOING EFFORTS AT OECD TO IMPROVE THE REPORTING OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. THESE INCLUDE: PREPARATION OF PERIODIC REPORTS; IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ANALYTICAL STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT; AND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF STATISTICAL DATA USED IN REPORTS. SPECIFICALLY, JAPAN AND THE U.S. AGREED TO COORDINATE THEIR RESPECTIVE PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING PROGRAMS AT OECD, AND CIRCULATE THESE AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BUREAU PLANNED FOR SEPT. 4,5,6, 1978.

4. THE PARTICIPANTS ALSO REVIEWED DRAFT MATERIAL FOR THE FIRST OECD REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT. PART I, HUMAN ACTIVITIES IMPACTING THE ENVIRONMENT, WAS NOT AVAILABLE. TABLES ON TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY, HARVESTING, AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WERE DISTRIBUTED AND REVIEWED. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THIS SECTION (20 PAGES) WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO PREPARE. A DRAFT OF PART II, THE PUBLIC RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS (25 PAGES) WAS DISTRIBUTED AND REVIEWED. THE WORK ON THIS SECTION IS PROCEEDING WELL.

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THE CORE MATERIAL, PART III, ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS,
WAS DIVIDED INTO 6 SECTIONS:
AIR - TABLES AVAILABLE, BUT NO DRAFT;
WATER - A FEW TABLES AVAILABLE, NO DRAFT;
LAND - VERY BRIEF DRAFT, NOT COMPLETE;
WILDLIFE - SOME TABLES, NO DRAFT;
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES - SOME TABLES, NO DRAFT;
HABITAT (NOISE) DRAFT ONLY.

5. THE EXTENDED BUREAU VOICED SOME CONCERN WITH THE
UNFINISHED STATE OF THE MATERIAL PRESENTED. ALL AGREED
THAT A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF WORK WAS REQUIRED BEFORE
THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE EXPERTS GROUP; PARTICIPANTS
AGREED IT WAS TOO EARLY TO PREPARE CONCLUSIONS. AGENDA
FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING WAS PREPARED.

6. THE CHAIRMAN, TOM DEFAYER PRESENTED THE VIEWS AND
CONCERNS OF THE EXPERTS GROUP TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE
JULY 11TH MEETING OF THE EXTENDED BUREAU OF THE ENVIRON-
MENT COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE ANTICIPATES THAT THE
STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT WILL PLAY A SIGNIFICANT
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ROLE IN PREPARING FOR THE MAY 1979 MINISTERIAL MEETING.
THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DAN TUNSTALL, EXPLAINED US
STRONG INTEREST IN HAVING THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE USE
THE REPORT IN PLANNING FUTURE OECD AND MEMBER COUNTRY
PROGRAMS.

7. GABRIELE SCIMEMI, ACTING DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL
DIRECTORATE, RECOMMENDED THAT PRIMARY EMPHASIS BE PLA-
CED ON THE PART OF THE REPORT DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENT
CONDITIONS AS AFFECTED BY RESOURCE AND TIME CONSTRAINTS.
HE SAID MINISTERS WILL WANT TO SEE AND HEAR ABOUT
DRAMATIC AND MEANINGFUL CHANGES IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONDI-
TIONS. THEY WILL THEN BE CONFRONTED WITH OBVIOUS GAPS
IN OUR AVAILABLE INFORMATION, AND THUS WILL USE THIS
KNOWLEDGE TO PLAN FUTURE INFORMATION GATHERING AND
REPORTING POLICIES.

THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE EMPHASIZED THEIR SUPPORT
FOR THE WORK OF THE EXPERTS GROUP AND LOOKED FORWARD TO
REVIEWING THE REPORT AT ITS NEXT MEETING IN DECEMBER.
SALZMAN.

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